

Supported Employment Leadership Network (SELN)
Meeting

Date: March 26, 2015
Location: 111 N Sanders Rm 207
Time: 10:00 – 3:00 pm.
Location: 111 N Sanders Rm 207, Helena

Attendees: Kelly McNurlin (DDP), Misti Hofland (VR - Great Falls), Randy Winstead (Family Outreach), David Bristow (Family Outreach), Charlie Briggs (ESGW), Stacy Mader (DDP), Jennifer Finnegan (DDP), Phyllis Alshiemer (Family Outreach), Karen Cech (recorder).

Phone Attendees: Diane Reidelbach (Job Connection), Shannon Merchen (DDP Reg 3 Man.), Tiffany Costa (Community Work Incentives Coordinator), Rie Kennedy-Lizotte (Director of SELN), John Butterworth (?), Suzanne Freeze (ICI SELN Project Manager) Jane Boone (?).

• **Statewide Benefits Counseling Services to Social security Disability Beneficiaries -**
Tiffany Costa, a Community Work Incentives Coordinator (CWIC) from Montana State University Billings presented a power point describing the services she provides to individuals across the state. Tiffany's funding is from one of two WIPA grants Montana received. The funding grant is a two year grant from July 2013 through June 2015. The individuals she serves range for ages 14 through retirement. The program currently has 208 individuals that they help serve. Her program will be looking for new funding to start July 2015 to continue their services.

The Community Work Incentives Coordinator works remotely with individuals with:

- a) Social Security Program and giving advice
- b) Work Incentive Planning & Assistance
- c) Assist in transferring and acquiring services in another State
- d) Assist in finding assistance with other programs - Food Stamps, Vocational Rehabilitation
- e) Work with individuals for work incentives.

Three major programs they work with are:

- a) Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)
- b) Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- c) Childhood Disability Benefits (CDB).

Tiffany presented a power point about their program, what they do for their clients with SSDI, SSI, and/or CDB and work incentives. The most valuable tool for understanding the work incentives is the Redbook (Workbook) that can be found on the following website www.socialsecurity.gov/redbook. There are eight work incentives that she takes a client

through to see what may apply to them and lets the client decide what they can do for amount of hours they can work.

If anyone has any questions, Tiffany can be contacted at 1-888-866-3822 / 1-406-657-209 or by email tiffany.cost1@msbillings.edu. The North Central area of Montana is covered by Margaret Keener who can be reached at 1-800-823-6245 / 1-406-452-9834 or by email ncils.keener@bresnan.net. The national Social Security phone number is 1-800-772-1213 or www.socialsecurity.gov.

Kelly McNurlin discussed with the SELN group to see if Tiffany's presentation may be beneficial for DDP Case Managers, Providers, and Job Coaches. Kelly will try to coordinate presentations.

Tiffany will provide the power point, the program brochure, and a flier about CWIC. These items will be attached with the SELN minutes.

- **Rie Kennedy-Lizotte and John Butterworth from the National Supported Employment Leadership Network (SELN) project team Conference meeting -**

Rie Kennedy-Lizotte, John Butterworth and other SELN National representatives participated in the presentation of a power point to the Montana SELN workgroup. Power point provided graphs with trend across the country and where Montana lies in relation to employment services. The presentation led into a discussion on (1) What are Montana's goals, (2) Which items on our past list are no longer a priority, and (3) What priorities are not on the list. At this time, which areas should Montana focus on? How has the landscape changed from the last survey?

Since the last survey the SELN has accomplished many of the goals:

- 1) Employment survey and data from survey.
- 2) Job coach training created. Vocational Rehabilitation is utilizing for Job Coach training and DDP has it available to providers.
- 3) Defined Waiver Employment definitions and implemented into Waiver amendment.

A limitation that DDP has is that resource allocation/payment structure is inflexible for assigning resources due to the computer software. Employment is underfunded and the rate does not cover the service.

John mentioned that Montana is on the low side of engaging individuals with ID in the coordination of braiding services (schools, providers, employers, etc.). The SELN workgroup presented a power point to a Governor's representative last fall. The workgroup could schedule another meeting.

HCBS transition plan will have an effect on processes.

Process mapping of all services within agencies may help with many of the questions and help to see what the system looks like. This may help with future goals.

Two surveys will help drive the SELN workgroup forward:

- A. Rie and John will be sending out a survey.
 - 1. This survey can target two groups
 - a) Families
 - b) Case manager, agencies, and direct care staff.
 - 2. Surveys will be sent out in April.
 - 3. Information will be collected to be presented at their next visit to Montana.
 - B. Kelly will be sending out the Employment survey.
 - 1. Survey will be any 2 consecutive weeks in the month of April 2015.
 - 2. Individual must be 16 years of age or older that may have had paid employment (if individual did not receive waiver day or work services through DDP we are not collecting employment data on them at this time).
 - 3. 3 months or a full tax year worked was discussed for self-employment. Will be an option to report either.
- Plans and details for Rie Kennedy-Lizotte and John Butterworth upcoming visit May 20 and 21 will be sent out to the SELN workgroup.

The next SELN meeting will be April 23rd.